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GENERAL AND COMPLETE DISARMAMENT

Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Belgium, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic, Chile, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Czech Republic, Denmark, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Gabon, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mozambique, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Norway, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Swaziland, Sweden, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America and Uruguay: draft resolution

Consolidation of peace through practical disarmament measures

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 51/45 N of 10 December 1996,

Convinced that a comprehensive and integrated approach towards certain practical disarmament measures, such as, inter alia, arms control, particularly with regard to small arms and light weapons, confidence-building measures, demobilization and reintegration of former combatants, demining and conversion, often is a prerequisite to maintaining and consolidating peace and security and thus provides a basis for effective rehabilitation and social and economic development in areas that have suffered from conflict,

Noting with satisfaction that, since the adoption of resolution 51/45 N, the importance of such practical disarmament measures has received growing attention from the international community in general, and from interested and affected Member States in particular, as well as from the Secretary-General,

Stressing that further efforts are needed in order to develop and effectively implement programmes of practical disarmament in affected areas,

Recalling the deliberations at the 1997 substantive session of the Disarmament Commission in Working Group III on agenda item 6, entitled "Guidelines on conventional arms control/limitation and disarmament, with particular emphasis on consolidation of peace in the context of General Assembly resolution 51/45 N", where the scope of resolution 51/45 N was a major focus,

Welcoming the adoption by the Disarmament Commission of the "Guidelines for international arms transfers in the context of General Assembly resolution 46/36 H of 6 December 1991",[1]

Noting, with reference to its resolution 50/70 B of 12 December 1995, the report of the Panel of Governmental Experts on Small Arms[2] and its relevance in the context of the present resolution and of the ongoing work in the Disarmament Commission,

1. Stresses the particular relevance of the deliberations at the 1997 substantive session of the Disarmament Commission in Working Group III on agenda item 6, entitled "Guidelines on conventional arms control/limitation and disarmament, with particular emphasis on consolidation of peace in the context of General Assembly resolution 51/45 N" for this topic, takes note of the Chairman's paper of 9 May 1997[3] and other views expressed, as a useful basis for further deliberations, and encourages the Disarmament Commission to continue its efforts aimed at the adoption of such guidelines;

2. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General[4] on the consolidation of peace through practical disarmament measures, submitted pursuant to resolution 51/45 N, and encourages Member States as well as regional arrangements and agencies to lend their support to the implementation of relevant recommendations contained therein;

3. Recognizes, with reference to paragraph 12 of the report, that the readiness of the international community to assist affected States in their efforts to consolidate peace would greatly benefit the effective implementation of practical disarmament measures;

4. Invites interested States to establish a group in order to facilitate this process and to build upon the momentum generated, and requests the Secretary-General to lend his support to the efforts of such a group;

5. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-third session the item entitled "Consolidation of peace through practical disarmament measures".

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[1] Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-first Session, Supplement No. 42 (A/51/42), annex I.

[2] A/52/298, annex.

[3] Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-second Session, Supplement No. 42 (A/52/42), annex III.

[4] A/52/289.